

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 459

INFO AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1573

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIA'S MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE YAR

REF: JIDDA 1360

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S INQUIRY AS TO THE STATUS OF SAUDI ARABIA'S MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE YAR, SULTAN STATED THAT HE HAD BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO BEING PRACTICALLY SAT UPON BY HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE CABINET WHENEVER HE SURPRISED THEM WITH REQUESTS FOR HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY. BUT IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE SULTAN ADMITTED THAT HIS "INQUISITORS" HAD A VALID POINT.

2. EVIDENTLY MODA'S CALCULATIONS OF THE COST OF A COMPREHENSIVE SAUDI ARABIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO THE YAR AMOUNTED TO 4 BILLION SAUDI RIYALS. IN VIEW OF THE COMPARATIVE ENORMITY OF THIS AMOUNT AT THIS JUNCTURE OF SAUDI ARABIA'S OBLIGATIONS IT WAS DECIDED TO CONFINE SAUDI MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE YAR LAND FORCES. SAUDI ARABIA

WOULD THEN URGE THE YAR AUTHORITIES TO APPROACH OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, FOREMOST AMONG THEM THE USA, FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE OTHER BRANCHES OF THE YAR FORCES.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE SULTAN IS WELL AWARE OF LACK OF ANY
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USG INTEREST IN FUNDING MILITARY AID TO THE YAR AND AMBASSADOR DID

NOT TAKE THIS OCCASION TO AGAIN HAMMER HOME THE POINT.
APPARENTLY SAG SURVEY IS NEARING FINAL DRAFT AND WE CAN
EXPECT SULTAN TO BE ASKING USG FOR VARIOUS LETTERS OF
OFFER IN THE FAIRLY NEAR FUTURE. APPARENT DECISION TO PUT
FIRST PRIORITY ON LAND FORCES MAY BE REASONABLE, BUT WE MAY
STILL WISH TO
ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF MODEST INTERNAL AIR TRANSPORT
CAPABILITY. STILL AWAITING VIEWS OF FIFER REPORT ON THIS MATTER.

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Message Attributes

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